

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 SP-02 PRS-01 INR-07 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 320

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 8115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: CLARK SECURITY DOG INCIDENT: PRESS COVERAGE

REF: (A) MANILA 8041 (EXDIS, (B) MANILA 7939

1. MAY 26 TIEMS JOURNAL FRONT PAGED DOG ATTACK UNDER HEADLINE, "FATHER OF CLARK DOG'S VICTIM SEEKS JUSTICE." INTERVIEWED AT HOSPITAL WHERE HIS SON BEING TREATED, SCAVENGER'S FATHER SAID HE WAS GLAD GOP AUTHORITIES HAD ORDERED INVESTIGATION OF CASE. ACCORDING TO TJ, WHILE ANGELES CITY DETECTIVE TAKING WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM VICTIM, FERNANDO NUGUID, CLARK AIR FORCE BASE LAWYER APPEARED AND ASKED NUGUID TO GO TO BASE FOR A TALK. DETECTIVE TOLD CLARK REPRESENTATIVE VICTIM COULD NOT BECAUSE HE "COULD HARDLY WALK." THE TIMES JOURNAL REPORTED "THE EMISSARY LEFT IN A HUFF." TIMES JOURNAL ALSO REPORTS THAT CITIZENS OF MABALACAT NEAR CLARK CLAIMED THAT AT LEAST 15 PERSONS HAD BEEN BITTEN BY CLARK DOGS LAST YEAR.

2. TJ ALSO CARRIED LENGTHY UPI REPORT WHICH LEADS:

"PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY HAS COME UNDER FIRE IN MANILA AFTER AN AMERICAN GUARD AT THE U.S. CLARK AIR BASE REPORTEDLY UNLEASHED HIS DOG ON A FILIPINO SCAVENGER AFTER HIS SURRENDER." UPI, WHICH PROVIDES BOTH NUGUID'S AND CLARK'S

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SPOKESMAN'S ACCOUNTS OF INCIDENT, STATES DOG STORY HAS "PROVIDED AMMUNITION FOR MANILA COLUMNISTS TO SNIPE AT PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. UPI ALSO REPORTS CHARGE'S SPEECH TO AMERICAN LEGION, AS WELL AS STATEMENT ON INCIDENT REPORTED REFTEL A.

3. MAY 26 DAILY EXPRESS CARRIED EDITORIAL "GOING TO THE

DOGS." FULL TEXT FOLLOWS.

4. BEGIN QUOTE: THE AMERICAN POSTURE AS HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER OF THE WORLD CAN VERY WELL GO TO THE DOGS IN THIS COUNTRY IF DISCRIMINATORY AND OUTRIGHT INHUMAN ACTUATIONS AND TENDENCIES OF SOME U.S. SERVICEMEN IN THE MILITARY BASES HERE ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY AND DECISIVELY CURBED.

5. THE VICIOUS ATTACK ON A FILIPINO SCAVENGER INSIDE THE CLARK AIR BASE BY A K-9 POLICE DOG ALLEGEDLY ON ORDERS FROM ITS AMERICAN SERGEANT TRAINER IS ONE CLEAR CASE IN POINT. ACCORDING TO THE SCAVENGER, FERNANDO NUGUID OF PAMPANGA, THE DOG WAS ORDERED TO ATTACK HIM EVEN AFTER HE HAD SURRENDERED TO THE SERGEANT WHO CAUGHT HIM GATHERING SCRAPS OF METAL AND DISCARDED WIRES IN THE SPRAWLING BASE. U.S. SGT. JOSEPH GAINES ALLEGED HOWEVER THAT THE DOG ATTACKED ON ITS OWN INSTINCTS, A CONTENTION SOMEWHAT DOUBTFUL CONSIDERING THE TRAINING OF SUCH CANINES.

6. WHILE THE CASE AGAIN RESSURRECTS THE ISSUE OF MALTREATMENT OF FILIPINO NATIONALS IN AMERICAN BASES HERE, IT IS BY NO MEANS THE MOST SERIOUS AND DEGRADING INCIDENT OF MALTREATMENT COMMITTED BY AMERICAN SERVICEMEN IN THE LONG YEARS THAT THE BASES HAVE STAYED IN THE COUNTRY. THE LIST IS LONG, INCLUDING THE SHOOTING OF SEVERAL SCAVENGERS IN THE PAST WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY MISTAKEN FOR WILD BOARS. RECENT YEARS HAVE WITNESSED OTHER CASES OF DISCRIMINATION AND DENIAL OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS TO FILIPINOS IN THESE BASES, AMONG THE., THE STRIPPING NAKED OF SEVERAL FILIPINA BASE EMPLOYEES FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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SEARCH PURPOSES; THE RAID ON A PRIVATE APARTMENT WITHOUT A SEARCH WARRANT OSTENSIBLY TO LOOK FOR AND CONFISCATE STOLEN ITEMS; AND THE ARBITRARY DISMISSAL OF A FILIPINA LAWYER EMPLOYED IN ONE OF THE BASES.

7. UNLIKE IN PREVIOUS CASES, HOWEVER, THE CAB DOG ATTACK INCIDENT IS INVARIABLY CAST AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF CURRENT U.S. POSTURINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MORALITY AND ITS UNCOMPROMISING STAND ON "THE INHUMAN TORTURE OF HUMAN BEINGS" AND THE "NEED FOR PRACTICAL, EFFECTIVE WAYS IN WHICH AMERICAN POWER CAN BE USED TO ALLEVIATE HUMAN SUFFERING AROUND THE WORLD."

8. IN THE MORALISTIC CARTER ADMINISTRATION CAN UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE UNNECESSARY USE OF FORCE ON A HELPLESS CRIMINAL OFFENDER IS IMMORAL, THEN PERHAPS THE CAB DOG ATTACK INCIDENT -- UNLIKE OTHER MALTREATMENT CASES IN THE PAST -- MAY LEAD TO A JUST RESOLUTION, AND HOPEFULLY A SERIOUS RE-EXAMINATION OF AMERICAN BASE POLICIES AND

ACTIVITIES IN THIS COUNTRY. END QUOTE.

9. SO FAR, ONLY TIMES JOURNAL EDITORIAL ON CASE APPEARED MAY
22. IN PIECE ENTITLED "CRACKS IN AMERICAN IMAGE," TJ LINKED
CASE OF DETROIT NURSES AND DOG, SUGGESTING THESE EXAMPLES OF
U.S. RACISM AND INDIFFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS OF OTHERS.
INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, BULLETIN TODAY, WHICH HAS LARGEST
CIRCULATION, HAS DOWNPLAYED ENTIRE INCIDENT AND GIVEN IT
MINIMUM COVERAGE.

10. COMMENT: AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, TIMES JOURNAL (KOKOY
ROMULDEZ' PAPER) CONTINUES TO PLAY UP STORY, ALTHOUGH ACCOUNT
IS SOMEWHAT MORE RESTRAINED THAN IT COULD BE GIVEN TIMES
JOURNAL PREVIOUS EFFORTS, E.G. GOMEZ CVISA CASE. EXPRESS
EDITORIAL, WHICH PROBABLY REFLECTS PRESIDENT'S VIEWS,
STRIKES US AS RELATIVELY MODERATE (ESPECIALLY LAST PARA-
GRAPH) AND SUGGESTS GENUINE MARCOS DESIRE NOT TO EXACERBATE
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ISSUE, BUT TO SOLVE OLD PROBLEM. WE AGREE.
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Message Attributes

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